

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

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S/S-JHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 168650

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT LONDON 10442 ACTION SECSTATE INFO MUSCAT JIDDA
TEHRAN JULY 6, 1976

QUOTE

S E C R E T LONDON 10442

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MU, UK

SUBJECT: USE OF MASIRAH IN OMAN

REFERENCE: A) STATE 166422: B) LONDON 10434

1. WHILE WE ARE WAITING FOR BRITISH TO INFORM US OF
QABOOS REACTION TO THE PROPOSED FLIGHTS. WE SHOULD ADD TO
REFTEL (B) FURTHER COMMENTS MADE BY LUCAS AND MOD
OFFICIALS ON JULY 5. BRITISH WARNED US THAT WHEN THEY
RAISE THIS PROPOSAL WITH QABOOS, HE MIGHT THINK AGAIN
AND GIVE A LESS STRAIGHTFORWARD ANSWER ON US USE OF
MASIRAH. HE IS NOT ALWAYS IMMEDIATELY SENSITIVE TO
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POLITICO-MILITARY IMPLICATIONS AND MIGHT BE CONCERNED

THAT BY ALLOWING US USE OF THE ISLAND WHILE THE BRITISH ARE STILL THERE HE WOULD BE OPEN TO CHARGES THAT HE IS ALLOWING AN ANGLO/AMERICAN BASE TO BE ESTABLISHED ON OMANI TERRITORY.

2. BRITISH ALSO NOTED THAT IF WE DO NOT REQUEST AUTHORITY FOR EACH FLIGHT FROM OMANIS, WE MIGHT ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF USE ONLY WITH THE BRITISH IN CONTROL, WHEREAS OUR INTENTION IS TO ESTABLISH A PATTERN WITH OMANIS AS RESIDUAL OWNERS OF BASE.

3. MOD OFFICIALS NOTED THAT RAF DRAW-DOWN OF THE BASE HAS ALREADY STARTED, SO THAT THE AIRPORT IS NO LONGER OPEN 16 HOURS PER DAY, 7 DAYS PER WEEK. THEY SAID MOD WILL BE HAPPY TO REMOVE THE REST OF THE RAF FORCES THERE WHO "HAVE NOTHING TO DO."

4. ACTION REQUESTED BY EMBASSY: SINCE THE MOD HAS ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSING THE PROPOSED USE OF MASIRAH WITH CINCUSNAVEUR, NOW THAT WE HAVE CARRIED OUT THE DIPLOMATIC APPROACH ON SPECIFICS WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT CINCUSNAVEUR BE MADE AN INFO ADDRESSEE ON ALL FURTHER STATE CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT.

SPIERS

UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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